

REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-40. Claims 1-10, 19-29 and 38-40 are allowed. Claims 16 and 35 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 3, 4, 11, 15, 17, 18, 30, 34, 36, 38 and 40 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 4, 36, 38 and 40 were objected to for informalities. These claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner in order to overcome the objection.

Claims 15-18 and 34-36 were objected to for depending from rejected base claims, but were deemed to recite allowable subject matter. Applicant has therefore amended claims 15 and 34 to stand as independent claims, incorporating the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims from which they formerly depended. Independent claims 11 and 30 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 16 and 35, respectively, which are now canceled. Claims 17, 18 and 36 have been amended for proper dependence from claims 11 and 30.

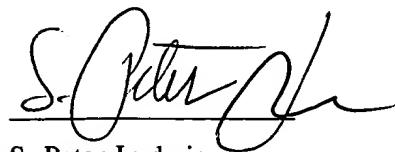
Claims 11-14 and 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) or 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over De La Bourdonnaye (U.S. Patent 5,212,687). While disagreeing with the grounds of rejection, Applicants have amended independent claims 11 and 30 in order to expedite issuance of a patent on the subject matter that the Examiner found to be patentable. As noted above, claims 11 and 30 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 16 and 35, respectively. Therefore, claims 11-18 and 30-36 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the objections and grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance.

Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

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Respectfully submitted



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